



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
CREEKS RESTORATION/WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

REGULAR MEETING

March 14, 2007

DAVID GEBHARD PUBLIC MEETING ROOM, 630 GARDEN STREET

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jordan called the meeting to order at 5:32p.m.

ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Chair Jordan, Daniel Hochman, Bruce Klobucher, Jeff Phillips, George Weber

Committee members absent: Lee Moldaver, Daniel Wilson

Liaison members present: County Project Clean Water Liaison Rob Almy, Park and Recreation Commissioner Beebe Longstreet

Liaison members absent: Councilmember Iya Falcone, Planning Commissioner John Jostes

Staff present: Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Jill E. Zachary, Creeks Water Resources Specialist Jill Murray

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion:

Committee members Hochman/Phillips to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 14, 2007.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one wished to speak.

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Jordan announced the Integrated Water Regional Management Plan (IRWMP) came out this week. Ms. Zachary added the Creeks Division will be presenting a status report to City Council on March 27th.

Chair Jordan announced that he attended a working meeting on the General Plan Update and Upper State Street Plan. A keynote forum will take place in May, other forums will follow in the month of June, and community workshops will take place throughout the Fall.

Ms. Zachary announced that the City has initiated the recruitment process for the Creeks Manager position. The recruitment will be open until Thursday, April 5th. Information regarding the position is available on the City's website.

Manager's Update:

Ms. Zachary reviewed the Manager's Program Update.

Mr. Klobucher arrived at 5:39pm

Mr. Almy arrived at 5:40pm

BUSINESS ITEMS

8. a Subject: Upper State Street Study

Recommendation:

That the Committee review and comment on the Upper State Street Study Report.

Documents:

Upper State Street Study Report – March 2007
Power Point Presentation – March 2007

Speakers:

Barbara Shelton, Project Planner, Planning Division

Committee Questions:

The Committee asked questions related to funding, practicality and feasibility of Upper State Street Study recommendations, specifically regarding pedestrian paths, budget, incentives for landowners, and capital improvements; how likely the recommendations are to be implemented; whether the Committee can formally add to the Study recommendations; how the General Plan Update affects the Study; whether the Study could be accepted "wholesale" if the General Plan Update is not accepted; the

relationship between the Study and environmental processes for individual and group projects; whether the Study will provide a baseline for environmental review; and, how the Creeks Division can make the recommendation to City Council that the steps in the Study are good for the entire City and not just the Upper State Street area.

Ms. Shelton reported that the City will attempt to have a programmatic approach to establish trails and improvements; as new developments and proposals are coming through, can take recommendations into account; these improvements will compete with other capital improvements coming up with the City; Planning hopes Creeks can assist with finding funding sources; possibility that the City will incorporate "street presence" into capital improvement program as an implementation measure; that the General Plan is a broader effort than the Study, but they have similar objectives; roadway or streetscape improvements may be added to City Capital improvements; and, a traffic analysis has been done, explaining existing conditions regarding land uses, zoning, and development patterns.

Committee Discussion:

The Committee discussed including in the recommendations: BMPs to reduce or clean runoff before it reaches creeks, bioswales and buffer zones that will be aesthetically pleasing, water quality, ecological health of the creeks and habitat restoration; working with the General Plan Update to provide a list of best practices throughout the City; trail identification, extending and enhancing existing trails; whether "orientation", as used in the Study, means moving structures away from creeks; incentives to reduce or redefine runoff and impervious surfaces; developers should meet new requirements for runoff reduction; and, native plantings in developments near creeks; and, a more specific zone within which native plants and pesticide free maintenance are required or recommended by City guidelines.

Motion:

Committee members Hochman/Phillips recommend to concur with recommending incorporating recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 4 into Upper State Street area design, adding water quality efforts and larger repertoire of BMPs into recommendation 1, as well as an emphasis on native planting and integrated pest management in recommendation 1.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote.

Committee Discussion:

The Committee discussed the following implementation strategies:

1) Concurring with stated implementation 2 regarding street signage;

- 2) Recommending implementing guidelines in other urbanized creek areas of Santa Barbara;
- 3) Developing further creek guidelines citywide; and
- 4) Implementing programs and incentives to work with existing property owners to achieve all goals.

Motion:

Committee Members Hochman/Weber to concur with Implementation 2.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote.

Motion:

Committee Members Hochman/Klobucher recommend encouraging the City to implement programs and incentives to work with property owners to achieve stated goals.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote.

Motion:

Committee Members Hochman/Klobucher to recommend that City Council see the Upper State Street Study recommendations and implementation steps as the stepping stone for citywide implementation of creek protective development guidelines.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Longstreet requested that the recommendation go in writing to Parks and Recreation Committee.

Break at 6:40pm

Back to order at 6:48pm

8. b Subject: Water Quality Monitoring Program

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive an update on the Water Quality Monitoring Program and concur with the staff recommendation to implement the proposed Research Plan for the remaining fiscal year and Fiscal Year 2008.

Documents:

Research Plan – March 2007

First Flush Storm Water Monitoring Summary – March 2007
Power Point Presentation – March 2007

Speakers:

Jill Murray, Water Resources Specialist

Committee Questions/Discussion

The Committee asked questions related to GIS; the timing and amounts of grants; applying the logic of Assembly Bill 538 to any sampling locations with elevated levels of pollution; the timeline to see water quality improvement; whether changing the way the state requires testing is an attainable goal; how toxicity samples were tested and how to best organize results; how to compare data from different sites in various years; how far upland from creeks into the watersheds the source tracking will go; whether it is possible to investigate Lighthouse and other storm drains that run directly into the ocean;

Ms. Murray reported that GIS is Geographic Information Systems, used to spatially catalog, present and interpret data; and, reviewed the grant timeline with award expected in June.

Ms. Murray reported the Creeks Division hopes to create a user friendly report available for use in other communities; next year's project assessment will have enough long term data to do analysis of retrospective flow data to see the relationship of beach warnings and flux data, and there will be enough data on indicator bacteria to work with the County to develop a predictive model based on weather conditions and climate data; testing will move up storm drains and look at any input of water, as well as collecting from sump pumps that discharge into storm drains.

Motion:

Committee Members Hochman/Weber to concur with staff recommendation to implement proposed research plan for the remaining FY07 and FY08.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote.

9. Appointment of CAC member to serve on interview panel for Creeks Manager

Chair Jordan appointed Jeff Phillips and indicated he would serve as backup if necessary.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Committee Members Hochman/Klobucher to adjourn.

Chair Jordan adjourned the meeting at 7:50p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill E. Zachary
Assistant Parks and Recreation Director